



# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 25, 2023

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



## PARISH INFORMATION

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503-631-2882  
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(C) 503-887-7701

**Youth Minister:** Katy Schnoor  
(C) 503-314-8907

**Pastoral Council President:**  
Matt Anderson

**Administrative Council Chair:**  
Dan Sweeney

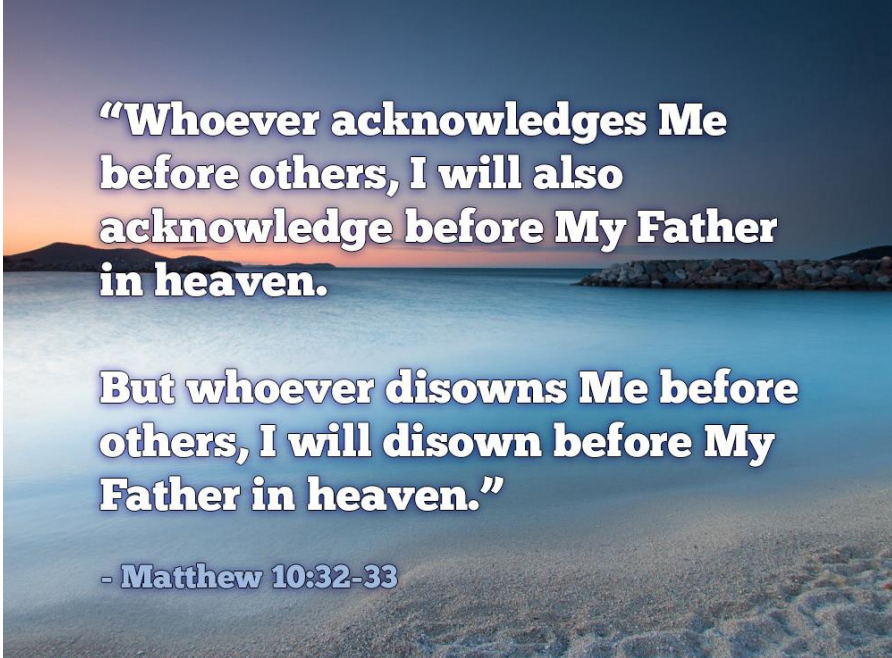
**Adoration:** Janet Tankersley  
(C) 503-545-2229

**Minister Volunteer Coordinators**

**Altar Servers:** Don Payne  
(H) 503-632-4370

**Prayer Requests:** Peggy St Andre  
503-631-3531

**Email Prayer Chain:** Heather Hannam  
hahannam@juno.com



**“Whoever acknowledges Me  
before others, I will also  
acknowledge before My Father  
in heaven.**

**But whoever disowns Me before  
others, I will disown before My  
Father in heaven.”**

- Matthew 10:32-33

## **MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am Mass  
Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 8am Mass  
Tuesday - 6:30pm Mass

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays – 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Thursdays – 8:30am-10pm  
(ends with Benediction)

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

If you or someone you know is homebound, wants to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the parish office, 503-631-2882.

**Baptisms:** Call the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Call the Parish Office.

**Weddings:** Call Fr. Paschal at least 6 months in advance of the planned date.

**St. Philip Benizi Website:** [www.philipbenizi.com](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

**God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.**

**Dear friends in Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, last Sunday's reflection concentrated on sending the required laborers that would be apt for the mission to the Lord's vineyard. In his truthful evaluation, the owner of the mission raised the alarm that the harvest is indeed great; however, it has few laborers. As a result, he asks all to pray to God to send dedicated and numerous workers to the vineyard. Those sent should abide by the rules and regulations of the master to achieve the desired goal. The workers are not to implement their wishes and desires because the vineyard is not theirs; it belongs to the Lord. Therefore, as servants in the Lord's vineyard, we should follow the Lord's directives as the premier laborers did to present a pleasant scorecard.**

**On this twelfth Sunday, the liturgy of the word challenges us to stand our ground amid life's difficulties; we should not be afraid to acknowledge and profess our faith in God and to defend the gospel before its antagonists. In the first reading, the daring and resilient Prophet Jeremiah faces utter persecution for doing what God called him to do: preaching God's message. A prophet is called and chosen by God not only to speak for but, to also guide God's people.**

**In Jeremiah's time, the kingdom of Judah was in its last days before its destruction by the Babylonians. Prophet Jeremiah persistently warned the people, especially the leaders of Judah, that they needed to amend their mode of operation and their unjust and unfaithful ways if they wanted to save the kingdom. The religious leaders openly and arrogantly rejected Jeremiah's lamentation for their welfare, placing the Prophet in danger of prophesying what seemed an unwanted message for the people. As the Prophet lamented in today's first reading, even his friends turned away from him and wished to see him humiliated and destroyed. Despite the evil plots against him, he was never discouraged.**

**Though he was experiencing persecution, rejection, and neglect by the people, his faith in God was glaring; he placed his trust in God and praised him. Jeremiah prayed, "For to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" (Jeremiah 20:13). The Psalmist agreed that persecution is the portion of those who acknowledge the Lord's name and message. He affirms that he bears insults and is treated like an outcast by his brothers because of God's name. Like Jeremiah, he prayed to God to come to his rescue when surrounded and afflicted by enemies, and he further invoked God to listen to his cry, God's poor servant.**

**In Today's gospel, Jesus encouraged the Twelve apostles when he sent them on the mission of healing and restoration to fear no one. He sends them on a mission to acknowledge him before the world. The whole objective of being sent is to proclaim what they heard from him before the world. However, he told them in the preceding chapter that doing his will in the vineyard is not an easy and juicy mission because they will be hated, persecuted, flogged, and handed over to civil powers by the beneficiaries of the gospel. The mission to proclaim and acknowledge him is not a smooth and comfortable ride and is devoid of warm reception and admiration from the sheep. Consequently, he addressed them as his chosen ones to fear no one and not succumb to the intrigues of those who have the mission of disturbing and persecuting Christ's followers.**

**Jesus warned his disciples not to fear those who could only inflict bodily harm and even death but could not kill the soul; instead, they should be afraid of the one that could obliterate both body and soul. They should limit their fear to God because only God can consign them to eternal hell or life. Therefore, do not be afraid to proclaim the gospel and follow the teachings of Christ. Disciples of Christ should not follow the erroneous ideas that are circulating today, which contradict the teachings of Christ. We should not make the political ideologies our God and commandments; therefore, we should not be afraid to stand up for the gospel even if it contradicts our political manifesto. The gospel of Christ should be paramount in our lives, and nothing should replace or occupy that vital place. The psalmist warns us that those who court other gods multiply their sorrows and that there should be no foreign god among you, no worship of an alien god, and do not make any idea your God (Psalm 16:4)). Instead, we should fall for God, our portion, and our cup. Continued page 7**

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 6/25/2023

8:00am Mass: Fr. Paschal (Dan & Sherrie Havens)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

## Monday, 6/26/2023

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

## Tuesday, 6/27/2023


## Wednesday, 6/28/2023 Memorial of St. Irenaeus

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

## Thursday, 6/29/2023 Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

8:30am-10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 

## Friday, 6/30/2023

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

## Saturday, 7/01/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: All Parishioners

## Sunday, 7/02/2023

8:00am Mass: +Mary Lou Silvander (Larry & Linda Zacher)  
10:30am Mass: +Leta Tlusty (Don & Loretta Payne)

**June 25<sup>th</sup>:** Fr. Paschal's Farewell Party after 10:30 Mass/Hall

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Come to the Hall after both Masses on Sunday to welcome Fr. Joseph Nguyễn

### Archbishop's Catholic Appeal update.

Donors: 42, Total given: \$12,652.70, 57.72% of our parish goal. If you have not sent in your donation, there are envelopes available in the pews and at the side doors.

Thank you on behalf of the Payne family. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for all that the parish family has done for us, the thoughts, prayers, and support. A big thank you to all that helped in the kitchen for the funeral and all of those who brought in food.



Our condolences go out to the family and friends of David Sweo who passed into God's loving arms on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Funeral information to come.

A big thank you to all the volunteers for helping plan, set up, prep food, make food and clean up at the Father's Day breakfast. It was a wonderful event and your help was very much appreciated.

Come to the Hall after the 10:30 Mass today, Sunday, for Fr. Paschal's Farewell Party.

Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.obolodisanpietr.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisanpietr.va/en.html).

Fr. Paschal, on your last day with us we thank you for your 13 years at St. Philip Benizi. Thank you for loving us and shepherding us. You have had such an impact on all of our lives. We wish you all the best at your new locations. We will miss you. We will continue to keep you in our prayers.

### Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 6/18/2023	Budget
	Actual	
Donors 62	\$4,741 (online: \$1,875)	\$5,070
Fiscal Year	\$248,510	\$245,327

### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

7/01~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon

7/02~8:00am: Butch Searl

7/02~10:30am: Kevin Horace

#### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam

Kristine Bible

Dan Sweeney

#### Extraordinary

Jeanne Hubel

Claudia Evers

Helen Sweeney

July Church Cleaners: Paul Lowry & Claudia Evers (503-518-7112)

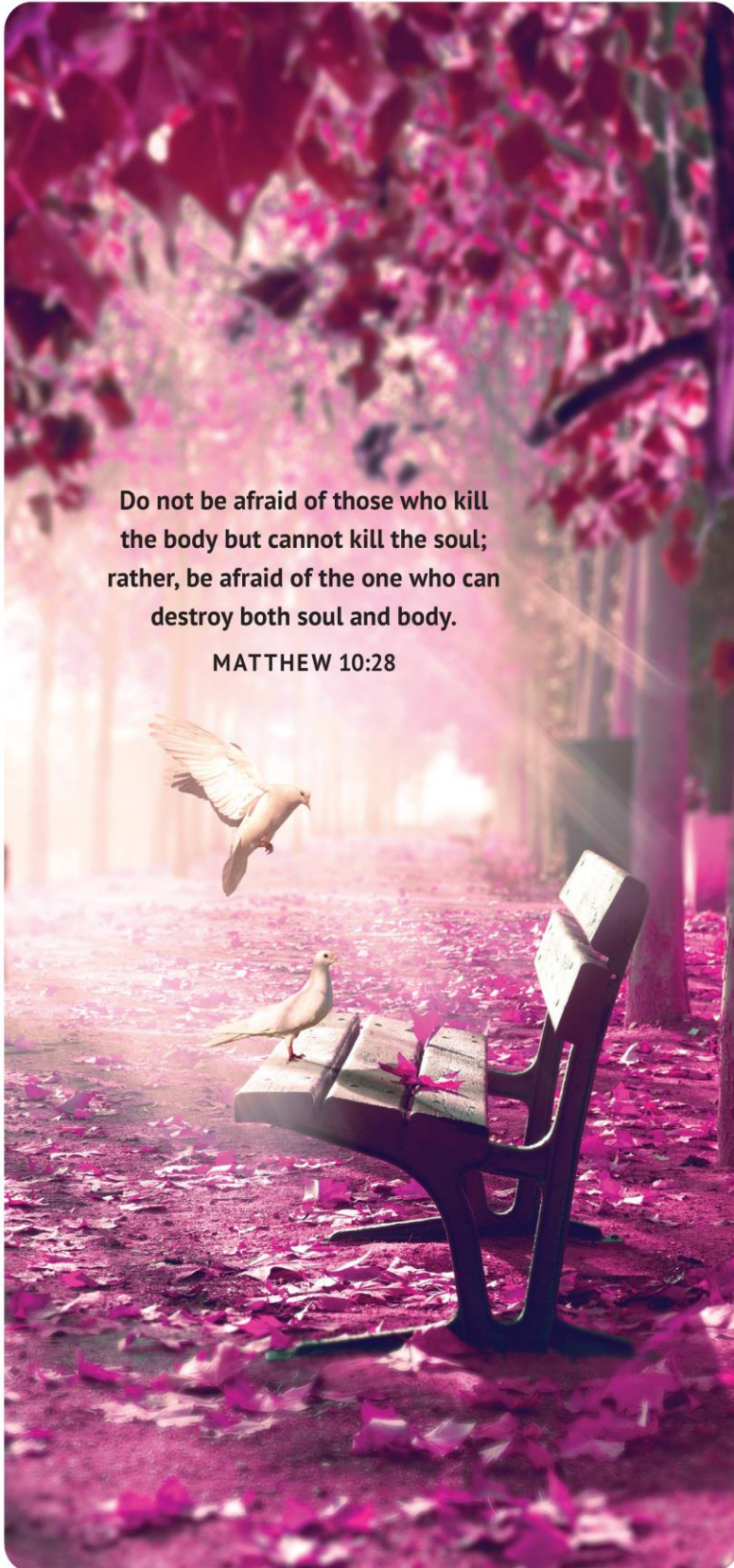
July Altar Linens: Rosalee Welle (503-804-1739)



7/02 9:00am: Welcome Fr. Joseph Hùng Nguyễn  
11:30am: Welcome Fr. Joseph Hùng Nguyễn







**Do not be afraid of those who kill  
the body but cannot kill the soul;  
rather, be afraid of the one who can  
destroy both soul and body.**

**MATTHEW 10:28**

## What Is a Soul, if Not...?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he Gospel of Matthew warns that the greater danger is not about those who may kill the body, but rather it is about those who can destroy both body and soul. Indeed, what if our soul dies long before our body dies? What then has become of our living?

Henry David Thoreau spent a year at Walden Pond in 1845. He did not go to escape life, he said, but to preserve it, to live it more fully. "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived," he wrote in *Walden* in 1854. "I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear, nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life."

To have a soul is not as if some other-worldly reality has been given a home in our body. Rather, to have a soul is to have a source of hope even in the face of failure, to love in imitation of Jesus even when we are not loved, to see goodness even when it is hidden, to trust in God even when we are powerless. It is the source of mystery, of all that is transcendent, the home of all that is holy. ●

### Reflect

**How would you know  
if your soul was in danger?**



# Dear Padre,

## *A friend of mine wants to be cremated. Does the Church permit it?*

The Church permits cremation when extraordinary circumstances warrant it. There was never a direct canonical ban on cremation until 1886, simply because it was not widely practiced by the Christian Church; its members preferred inhumation—the traditional form of burial—in hopeful imitation of Christ, whose body was resurrected from the dead. The Church reacted to a proliferation of nineteenth-century cremation societies, primarily in Europe, with a decree that forbade Catholics from membership in these societies or from cremation (with obvious exceptions made in times of public crisis, plagues, wars, etc.). The Church restated the ban as late as 1926 out of concern that these groups were anti-religious in promoting cremation as an argument against belief in the resurrection.

The Vatican has allowed cremation as an acceptable alternative to burial since 1963, except in cases where irreligious motives are apparent (Canon 1176, No. 3). Nevertheless, “although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites” (No. 413, *Order of Christian Funerals*, “Appendix 2, Cremation,” 1997). Moreover, while the Church permits cremation, the scattering of ashes is forbidden. They are to be reserved with reverence in a sacred place. ●



SIMONTHESORCERER / SHUTTERSTOCK

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSSr / DearPadre.org*

### **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**



*The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent*

*yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience.... God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.*

**APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, JOY OF THE  
GOSPEL (EVANGELII GAUDIUM),  
NOVEMBER 24, 2013**

#### **MONDAY**

June 26  
*Weekday*  
Gn 12:1–9  
Mt 7:1–5

#### **TUESDAY**

June 27  
*Weekday*  
Gn 13:2, 5–18  
Mt 7:6, 12–14

#### **WEDNESDAY**

June 28  
*St. Irenaeus, Bishop  
and Martyr*  
Gn 15:1–12, 17–18  
Mt 7:15–20

#### **THURSDAY**

June 29  
*Sts. Peter and Paul,  
Apostles*  
Acts 12:1–11  
2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18  
Mt 16:13–19

#### **FRIDAY**

June 30  
*Weekday*  
Gn 17:1, 9–10, 15–22  
Mt 8:1–4

#### **SATURDAY**

July 1  
*Weekday*  
Gn 18:1–15  
Mt 8:5–17

#### **SUNDAY**

July 2  
*Thirteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*  
2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a  
Rom 6:3–4, 8–11  
Mt 10:37–42

#### **Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective**

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## The day of the Church

36. The Sunday assembly is the privileged place of unity: it is the setting for the celebration of the sacramentum unitatis which profoundly marks the Church as a people gathered “by” and “in” the unity of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For Christian families, the Sunday assembly is one of the most outstanding expressions of their identity and their “ministry” as “domestic churches”, when parents share with their children at the one Table of the word and of the Bread of Life. We do well to recall in this regard that it is first of all the parents who must teach their children to participate in Sunday Mass; they are assisted in this by catechists, who are to see to it that initiation into the Mass is made a part of the formation imparted to the children entrusted to their care, explaining the important reasons behind the obligatory nature of the precept. When circumstances suggest it, the celebration of Masses for Children, in keeping with the provisions of the liturgical norms, can also help in this regard.

At Sunday Masses in parishes, insofar as parishes are “Eucharistic communities”, it is normal to find different groups, movements, associations and even the smaller religious communities present in the parish. This allows everyone to experience in common what they share most deeply, beyond the particular spiritual paths which, by discernment of Church authority, legitimately distinguish them. This is why on Sunday, the day of gathering, small group Masses are not to be encouraged: it is not only a question of ensuring that parish assemblies are not without the necessary ministry of priests, but also of ensuring that the life and unity of the Church community are fully safeguarded and promoted. Authorization of possible and clearly restricted exceptions to this general guideline will depend upon the wise discernment of the Pastors of the particular Churches, in view of special needs in the area of formation and pastoral care, and keeping in mind the good of individuals or groups—especially the benefits which such exceptions may bring to the entire Christian community.

### A pilgrim people.

37. As the Church journeys through time, the reference to Christ’s Resurrection and the weekly recurrence of this solemn memorial help to remind us of the pilgrim and eschatological character of the People of God. Sunday after Sunday the Church moves towards the final “Lord’s Day”, that Sunday which knows no end. The expectation of Christ’s coming is inscribed in the very mystery of the Church and is evidenced in every Eucharistic celebration. But, with its specific remembrance of the glory of the Risen Christ, the Lord’s Day recalls with greater intensity the future glory of his “return”. This makes Sunday the day on which the Church, showing forth more clearly her identity as “Bride”, anticipates in some sense the eschatological reality of the heavenly Jerusalem. Gathering her children into the Eucharistic assembly and teaching them to wait for the “divine Bridegroom”, she engages in a kind of “exercise of desire”, receiving a foretaste of the joy of the new heavens and new earth, when the holy city, the new Jerusalem, will come down from God, “prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev 21:2).

(POPE ST. JOHN PAUL 11, Apostolic letter on Dies Domini, July 30, 1998).

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## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**"Living and preaching the gospel of Christ should be paramount in our lives, and nothing should replace or occupy its vital place. So, we should follow Christ's teachings and boldly make them known. As disciples of Christ, we should not be enslaved people and puppets of erroneous and misleading ideas circulating today that contradict Christ's teachings." --- Fr. Paschal Ezurike.**

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### St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church being part of the universal church shares in its mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ who came to the world to fulfill His father’s will; by proclaiming the kingdom of God, building up the parish community as a witness to God’s love and care for the world, helping one another to become what God has called us to be. We are therefore encouraged to work toward God’s purpose of “wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4).

### III. CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF TO HIS FATHER FOR OUR SINS

Christ's whole life is an offering to the Father.

The Son of God, who came down "from heaven, not to do (his) own will, but the will of him who sent (him)", said on coming into the world, "Lo, I have come to do your will, O God." "And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." From the first moment of his Incarnation the Son embraces the Father's plan of divine salvation in his redemptive mission: "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work." The sacrifice of Jesus "for the sins of the whole world" expresses his loving communion with the Father. "The Father loves me, because I lay down my life", said the Lord, "(for) I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father." CCC 606

The desire to embrace his Father's plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus' whole life, for his redemptive passion was the very reason for his Incarnation. And so he asked, "And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour"? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." And again, "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?" From the cross, just before "It is finished", he said, "I thirst." CCC 607

"The Lamb who takes away the sin of the world"

After agreeing to baptize him along with the sinners, John the Baptist looked at Jesus and pointed him out as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". By doing so, he reveals that Jesus is at the same time the suffering Servant who silently allows himself to be led to the slaughter and who bears the sin of the multitudes, and also the Paschal Lamb, the symbol of Israel's redemption at the first Passover. Christ's whole life expresses his mission: "to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." CCC 608

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Continued from page 2

Furthermore, Jesus assures and comforts every Christian saying that he knows and takes care of us because we are created in his image and likeness. Hence, no creature is worth the value of the human beings he made in his image. "You are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:31). God values and loves his creation. He assures us that we are precious in his sight. Continuing, the savior assures us that everything about us is known to him and that we should not be afraid to accept his mission which is to proclaim the good news: "Every hair on your head has been counted. So, there is no need to be afraid!" This simply indicates that the Lord is on our side. He is ready and capable of delivering us from both the consequences and harmful effects of sin and all the threats we face in our daily life.

In this passage, Jesus wraps up his teaching by saying that everyone who acknowledges him will be recognized before his Father in heaven. He establishes perfect reciprocity between his actions and those of his disciples on earth. So, it behooves all believers to avail ourselves of every opportunity to acknowledge God in all we do. Finally, all we need to do to merit the protection Christ promised us is to be on his side by trusting him. It calls for being pure and just in our ways and actions; it simply means being true Christians. Of course, it also means submitting entirely to Christ. We pray that we find strength in all circumstances and strive to acknowledge him before the world so as to win recognition from him in heaven.

Remember, the closer you are to God, the better for us.

***Blessings,  
Your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Paschal Ezurike***



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